

Rules of Engagement:
A Message to the Black Community
by J.J. Johnson - Editor & Chief of Sierra Times 09.27.01

In a time when a country calls for unity, there are apparently cracks beginning to show in what was thought to be a solid American Foundation. According to the Associated Press, Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia has asked Jesse Jackson to lead a "peace delegation" to the region. In Jackson's press conference, he referred to the Taliban as "religious leaders". These two words used by such a man of notoriety in the Black community, if not addressed immediately, could lead to a clear and present danger to the domestic tranquility of this nation.

Jackson said he spoke with Secretary of State Colin Powell, who repeated the Bush administration position that it will not negotiate with the Taliban but did not urge Jackson not to go.

Well, he should have. According to our Constitution, Jackson traveling there to 'negotiate' with what has already been labeled a hostile regime, and referring to them as 'religious leaders' is the book definition of 'treason' - giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

Jackson's comments are just the tip of the iceberg. There have been numerous left-wing Black publications across America giving "the chickens have come home to roost" line, and America simply got what it deserved. In major media, it seems the black community has been silent on the matter of what direction this country should take. Jackson's recent statements (and others) cause me to suspect that as a black man, the black community may be receiving the wrong message - from leaders they never elected.

I have heard few people - neither the government, media, nor so-called black leaders themselves - discuss how this coming war may directly affect the black community. The black community should be asking questions. They deserve answers.

There is no stopping the coming battle in the Middle East. We are going to war, people. The world watched over 6000 people killed on American soil. That's 1% of the fatalities during the entire War of 1861-1865 wiped out in one day. Since then, many Americans have dropped any prefix from the word American when describing themselves. We are all Americans. This enemy has proven that he is willing to attack on this soil - indiscriminately. We may in fact face more attacks in the near future. Let me explain how this will affect Blacks - possibly more so than anyone else.

Any counter-strikes that would follow on American soil would probably be targeted at major metropolitan areas for a maximum kill ratio, where most blacks reside. The blast from a small, low yield nuclear weapon unleashed in the downtown area would cause immediate destruction. But most black communities would suffer the firestorms to follow. A disruption or attack on utilities would affect urban residents more than anyone else.

What's worse: There have been those Americans who have prepared for such contingencies

for sometime - although in limited fashion. They relocated to safer areas. They purchased the proper items necessary for survival. To many in the Black Communities, they were labeled as 'racist', anti-Semitic, anti-government, etc. Thus, blacks were shunned away from them - and their message. Today, when Blacks may consider purchasing a gas mask for their own protection, they will probably find themselves shunned away. Not due to skin color, but due to lack of availability.

There have been many complaints of 'racial profiling' in the past. Today, it has become common when talking about Middle Eastern residents (although few will admit it). The nation took a painful hit on September 11, 2001, and our sadness has turned to fear and anger. This message is to prevent political disenfranchisement, which is an 'industry' in the Black community, to cause the Black community to fall on the wrong side of American anger.

Black American: Now is the time to become unified with America. This means losing any prefix before the word American when describing yourself. The enemy has already removed it for you. Their mission, or "Fatwah" is to kill all Americans - regardless of race. This is not Islam. This was evil. Beware of those among you siding with anyone supporting what happened on September 11, 2001.

As in any war, one strategy is to divide and conquer. If not checked, I suspect there could easily be attempts to use persons who feel disenfranchised from this country as a method of causing civil unrest here in the United States. Black America must not let this happen. Beware of those who support what happened in New York and Washington. Beware of those who seek to meet and greet such support. They are not with us - but have their own agenda.

Instead, begin to look to outside resources for news and information. Get involved in community policing - keeping your eyes and ears open for warnings of the next attack. As we know, criminals often hide in Black Communities. There is no reason to assume terrorists won't as well. Lastly, prepare yourselves. Do not be led down the wrong path - or led out into the streets for the wrong reason.

Any man wishing to reach out to a hostile regime that vows to kill Americans should be discarded without discussion. For such a man does not speak for America. Nor does he, or should he, be allowed to speak for Black People anywhere.

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